

PSC SETS LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE IN 314, 636 AND 816 AREA CODE ISSUES

Jefferson City (April 14, 2000)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold local public hearings in **St. Louis, Chesterfield, O'Fallon, Kansas City, Blue Springs and St. Joseph to receive customer comment in a case** examining 314, 636 and 816 area code issues in Missouri. This case is examining how to alleviate an apparent exhaustion of available NXX codes (telephone prefixes) in the current 314 and 816 area codes.

The local public hearing schedule appears below:

April 24, 2000

St. Louis

Harris-Stowe State College

Hickey Room

3026 Laclede

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

April 24, 2000

Chesterfield

PSC Offices, Suite 100B

Conference Room

815 Charter Commons Dr.

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

April 24, 2000

O'Fallon

Municipal Center

Multipurpose Room

100 N. Main St.

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

May 3, 2000

Kansas City

Jackson Co. Courthouse

Legislative Assembly Area

Room 204, 415 E. 12th St.

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

May 3, 2000

St. Joseph

City Hall

Council Chambers

11th & Frederick

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

May 3, 2000

Blue Springs

Jackson Co. Park Facility

Fleming Hall

21906 Woods Chapel Rd.

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

***PLEASE NOTE: One hour before each local public hearing, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission will be available to answer questions from the general public.**

(More)

CASE BACKGROUND: North American Numbering Plan Administrator NeuStar, Inc. (NANPA) has filed a petition with the Missouri Public Service Commission requesting the Commission approve “overlay” plans to alleviate an apparent exhaustion of available NXX codes (telephone prefixes) in the **314** area code in eastern Missouri (the St. Louis metropolitan area) and the **816** area code in western Missouri (including the Kansas City and St. Joseph areas). The “overlay” plan proposed for 314 would also apply to the **636** area code in eastern Missouri.

NANPA suggests an “overlay” be introduced in the 816, 314 and 636 area codes as a means of alleviating the exhaustion of available NXX codes. When NXX codes become unavailable, the new area code is introduced. The introduction of a new area code will require ten digit dialing for local calling (the area code plus the seven digit telephone number).

A significant reason for the apparent exhaust is the current industry-wide practice of issuing numbers in blocks of 10,000. Other factors include an increasing demand for faxes, second lines, cellular phones, pagers, as well as Personal Communication Services (PCS) and local telephone competition. The Commission has asked the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for authority to pursue a variety of number conservation measures in Missouri.

The Commission will conduct formal hearings in this case July 31-August 3, 2000, in the Commission’s hearing room in Jefferson City.

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